

Remarks

Claims 1-26 were pending in the application. Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-21 and 23-26 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Thus, claims 3-26 are pending for reconsideration at this time.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging receipt of the priority documents in the pending application.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for reviewing the references cited by Applicant.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-26. Applicant has amended claims 3, 7, 12 and 20 to be in independent form. Claims 4-6 are dependent upon allowable claim 3. Claims 8-11 are dependent upon allowable claim 7. Claims 13-19 are dependent upon allowable claim 12. Claims 21-26 are dependent upon allowable claim 20. Allowance of claims 3-26 is solicited.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,201,731 ("Kamp" hereafter). Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is solicited.

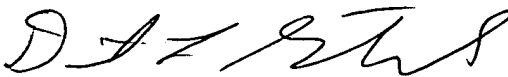
Conclusion

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that all objections and rejections be withdrawn and that a notice of allowance be forthcoming. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative for Applicant for any reason related to the advancement of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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